

VICTIM/WITNESS SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – VICTIM NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

Program Description

The Attorney General's Victim Notification Program (VNP) has implemented a system whereby crime victims will be provided with timely information about a defendant's appeal. There are two distinct components that make up the VNP. The first component consists of capital cases, and the second component is in non-capital cases. In capital cases, it is the VNP's objective to establish initial survivor contact. After a judgment of death against a defendant, VNP staff will contact the survivor to explain the capital case process and respond to any inquiry. During this time, arrangements are made with each survivor whereby they will be contacted with periodic updates on the case status. As an execution date approaches, the VNP staff dedicates ample time to spend with the survivors, the local district attorney and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. This effort provides the victims competent assistance with the preparation of impact statements and anticipating potential media attention.

Eligibility

The California Attorney General's Office is the only agency eligible to apply.

Authorized By

California State Legislature and the Office of Emergency Services

Fund Source and Amount

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) - \$ 224,000

Grant Award Period

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Next Competitive/Non Competitive Application Due Date

This is an ongoing non competitive application now in process

Additional Program Information

The objective in non-capital cases is to inform crime victims with relevant information about a defendant's appeal. In instances where the Court of Appeal modifies a defendant's sentence, the VNP provides victims with accurate and timely written facts concerning the appeal, which can ultimately assist victims in preparing for future decisions such as attending parole hearings.

How Do I Get More Information?

This program is administered by the Victim/Witness Section in the Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Victim/Witness Branch of OES at (916) 324-9205.